

# 2022-23 AUSTRALIAN NGO COOPERATION PROGRAM PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT

The Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) supports accredited Australian-based development NGOs through flexible annual grants to progress sustainable and inclusive development. In 2022-23, the ANCP supported 59 NGOs to deliver 402 projects in 53 countries. This snapshot presents aggregated data on 2022-23 program-wide performance, against agreed and common indicators<sup>1</sup>. It also provides an overview of how ANCP continued to respond to Australian development program priorities including gender equality, disability inclusion and locally led development. The snapshot further highlights how the ANCP implemented key recommendations, following an evaluation completed in 2022.

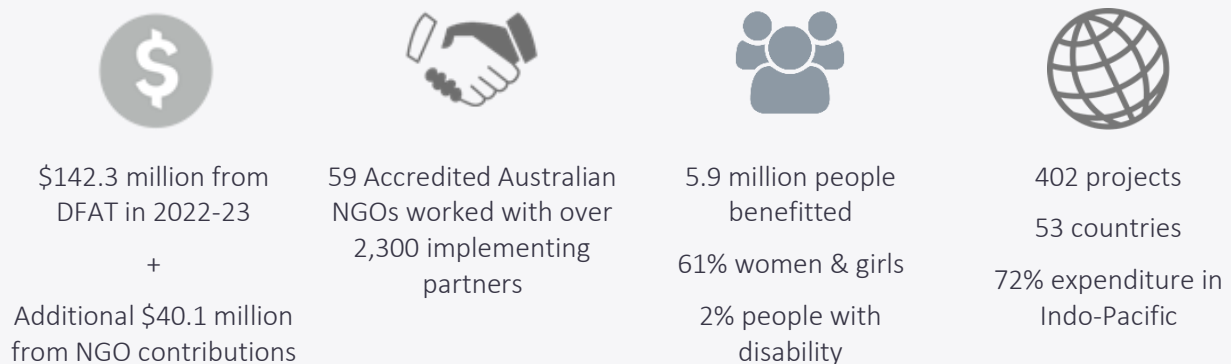
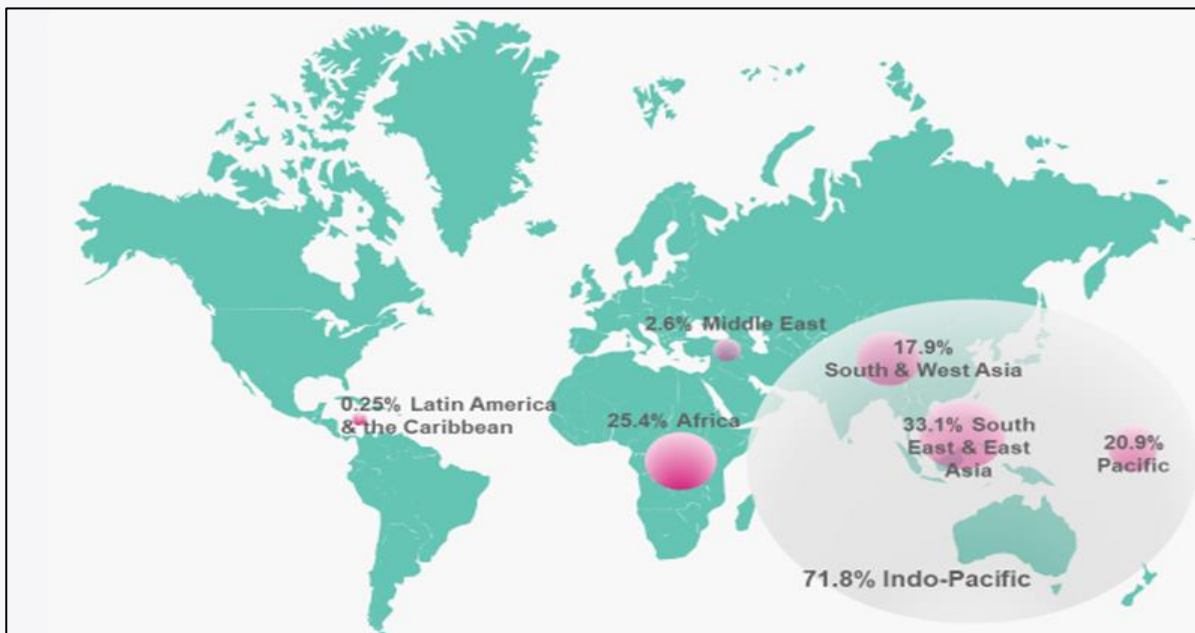


Figure 1: 2022-23 expenditure by region



<sup>1</sup> The data provided in the Annual Snapshot is drawn from annual progress reporting by ANCP NGOs. The ANCP captures both quantitative and qualitative data in its annual progress reporting. Quantitative data is reported under 48 program indicators.

In 2022-23 ANCP grants amounted to \$142.3 million in 2022-23 – an increase of \$9.7 million from 2021-22. This included \$7.5 million as part of the Government’s election commitment of an additional \$30 million for ANCP over four years.

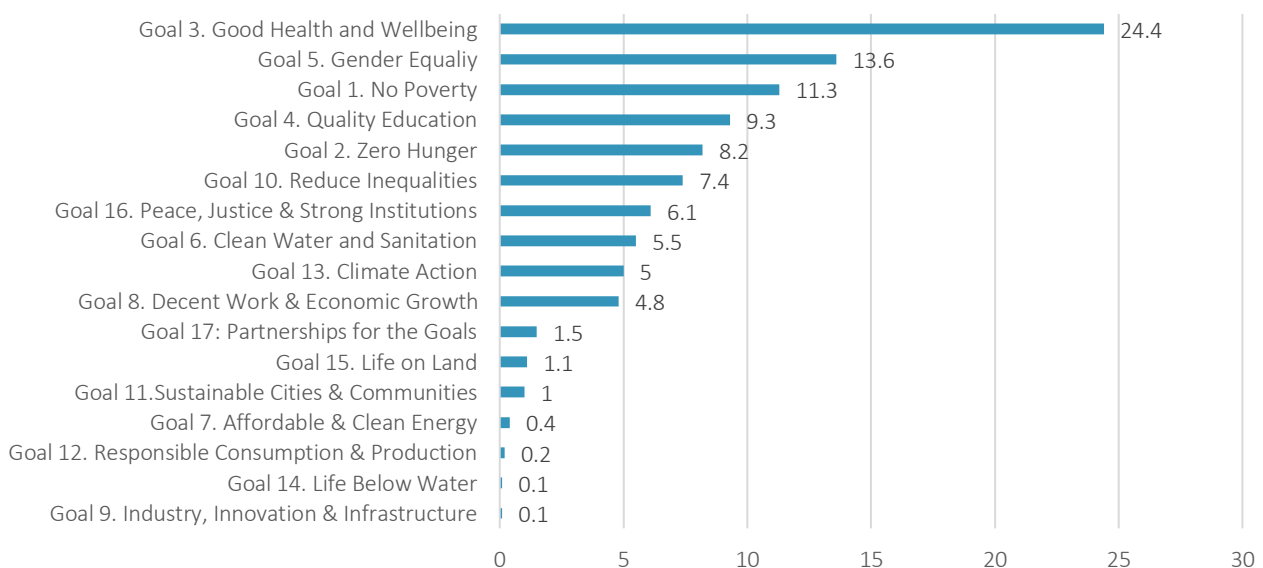
The ANCP modality requires an NGO contribution, typically at least 20 per cent. In 2022-23 the total NGO contribution to the ANCP was \$40.1 million (28%), compared to \$34.7 million in 2021-22 (26%). In addition, 23 per cent of projects received funding from other sources, up from 19 per cent of projects in 2021-22. These funds were largely leveraged from other Government sources (including local, provincial and national governments in-country and other Government donors such as Irish Aid, USAID, MFAT), other International NGOs and CSOs, private sector, multilateral organisations and faith-based organisations.

### Key development results

In 2022-23, the ANCP reached approximately 5.9 million people. Some key development results included:

- Over 4.3 million people received improved health services (58.2 per cent women and girls, 1.1 per cent people with disabilities)
- Almost 600,000 people benefitted from household-level access to improved drinking water sources and/or sanitation facilities (52.6 per cent women and girls and 1.9 per cent people with disabilities)
- Over 230,000 people received increased access to sufficient food (50.1 cent women and girls and 3.3 per cent people with disabilities)
- Over 58,000 additional girls and boys enrolled in school (47.2 per cent girls and 3.5 per cent people with disabilities)
- More than 30,000 women supported to assume leadership roles (2.8 cent women with disabilities)

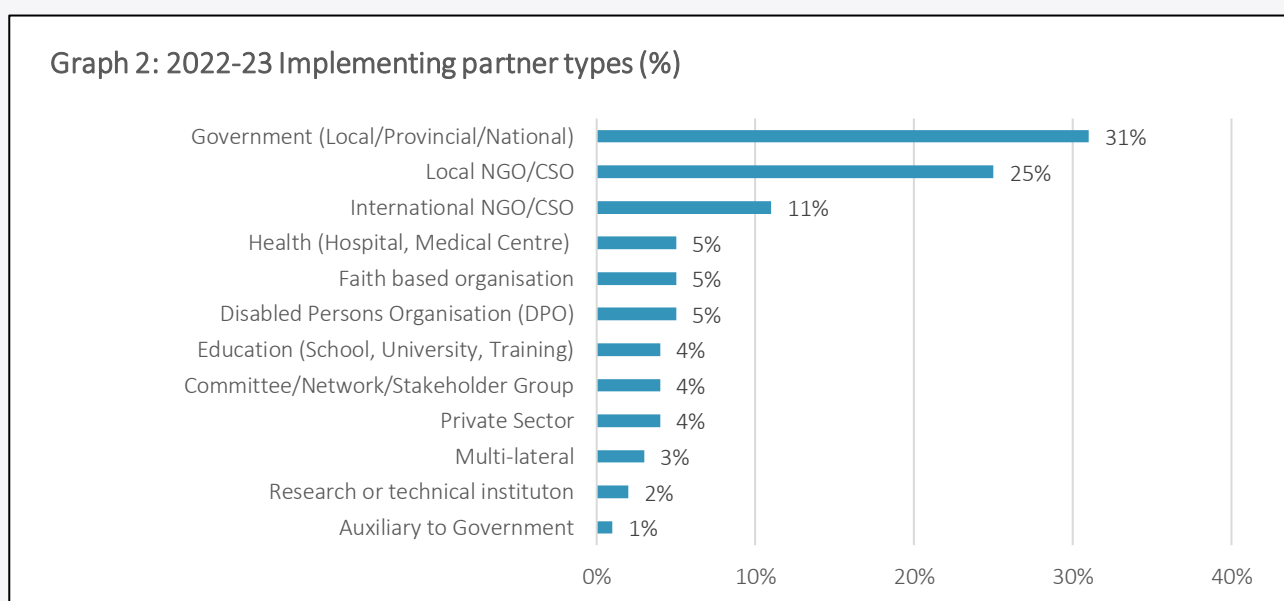
Graph 1: 2022-23 ANCP Expenditure by SDG (%)



The objective of the ANCP is to progress Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through supporting inclusive development, and open and transparent civil society. Graph 1 shows ANCP expenditure (percentage) in 2022-23 against each SDG. The largest expenditure related to: Good Health and Wellbeing (Goal 3); Gender Equality (Goal 5); No Poverty (Goal 1) and Quality Education (Goal 4).

## Locally led development

DFAT is exploring how locally led approaches can be strengthened through the ANCP and the development program more broadly. This has been reinforced by Australia’s International Development Policy’s commitment to support local leadership, solutions, and accountability, including channelling funding to local actors. Graph 2, which shows the implementing partner type across the ANCP, reflects the prevalence of working with local implementing partners.



In 2022-23 DFAT piloted a funding pass-down to local partners, where ANGOs were required to allocate a minimum of \$5,000 of their annual ANCP grant to local implementing partners for administration and overheads costs. Over \$465,000 was passed down for administration in 2022-23. In 2023-24, the local pass down increased to \$10,000. As a pilot approach this will inform future learnings on locally led development in the ANCP.

Looking ahead, and in line with Australia’s International Development Performance and Delivery Framework, ANCP will expand reporting in 2023-24 to include funding flows to local partners for implementing project activities, in addition to administration and overhead costs.

## Gender Equality and Disability Inclusion

Social inclusion is an integral part of ANCP’s Program Logic. Accreditation verifies that ANCP NGOs have appropriate policies, systems and capacity to promote gender equality and incorporate disability inclusive practices including analysis of barriers for people with disability, opportunities to enable inclusion and targeted M&E. Of the approximately 5.9 million direct participants reached, 60.8 per cent were women or girls (up from 56.1 per cent in 2022-23) and 2.4 per cent were people with disabilities (down from 2.9 per cent in 2021-22 and 5.8 per cent in 2020-21).

Overall and in line with previous reporting, inclusion of gender equality approaches in ANCP are stronger compared to approaches to address disability inclusion.

In 2022-23 the ANCP supported the following indicator results for gender equality:

- 368,421 people participated in sessions on gender issues and women's equal rights (72.6 per cent women and girls, 2.6 per cent people with disabilities) slightly up from 354,680 people in 2021-22 and 669,114 people in 2021-22 (Indicator G.02)
- 30,029 women were supported to assume leadership roles (2.8% women with disabilities), similar to 31,509 women in 2021-22 and up from 21,599 women in 2020-21 (Indicator G.04)
- 14,043 female entrepreneurs provided with financial and/or business development services (2.2 per cent women with disabilities) up from 10,239 in 2021-22 (Indicator G.05)
- 3,490 women's groups, organisations and coalitions were actively involved across all projects (Indicator G.06) compared to 3, 213 in 2021-22.

Table 2 shows 63 per cent of 2022-23 ANCP projects explicitly targeted gender equality (demonstrated through the selection of the principal and significant DAC gender equality markers), similar to the 61 per cent of projects in 2021-22. 2022-23 results also show an increase in the proportion of projects with a gender mainstreaming approach compared to 2021-22.

**Table 2: Project-level approach to gender equality**

<b>Gender marker</b>	<b># of projects 2022-23</b>	<b>% of projects 2022-23</b>	<b># of projects 2021-22</b>	<b>% of projects 2021-22</b>
<b>Principal</b>	69	17	71	18
<b>Significant</b>	185	46	169	43
<b>Mainstream</b>	102	25	74	19
<b>Not Targeted</b>	46	12	78	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>100</b>

In line with the Australian Government's commitment to improving gender equality across its international development program, an ANCP Gender Equality Working Group with representatives from DFAT and ANGOs was formed in 2023 to develop an approach for applying the new DFAT gender equality policy requirements to the ANCP. This included aligning ANCP reporting on gender with the OECD/DAC Gender Equality markers (mainstream category will no longer be used from 2024-25); developing stretch targets for the percentage of ANCP NGOs that spend over 50 per cent of funding on projects with principal or significant gender equality focus; considering proxy indicators for measuring increased power and decision-making of local and national partner organisations working on gender equality; and commissioning an independent gender equality meta-synthesis of ANCP evaluations from the past five years to use as a baseline to measure impact of application of DFAT's gender equality policy to the ANCP over time.

ANCP reporting collects information on whether people with disabilities or organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs) are involved in project planning, implementation and review processes. In

2022-23, 527 OPDs were engaged across all projects with a principal or significant disability focus, compared to 643 in 2021-22.

Beyond quantitative parameters, there is limited systematically collected evidence and analysis on which to report disability inclusion outcomes. Examples of inclusive approaches included participation by OPDs in needs assessments, strengthening of disability inclusion awareness and resources and participation by people with disabilities in project governance. In 2022-23 the ANCP supported:

- 105,891 people trained in disability awareness and inclusion, down from 180,407 people the previous year (Indicator G.09)
- 11,721 people received disability support services specific to their needs (36.4 per cent women and girls), down from 15,032 people the previous year (indicator G.10)

Table 3 shows four per cent of projects had a principal focus on disability inclusion, approximately two thirds had a significant focus (including both twin track or mainstream approach) and 27 percent did not target disability inclusion. The table shows a six-percentage point increase in projects with a significant focus on disability inclusion compared to 2021-22, with the mainstream approach being the most prevalent.

The downward trend in the percentage of total participants with a disability in 2022-23 compared to the last two previous years (as referenced earlier), as well as other specific disability inclusion indicators over the last few years in the ANCP calls for an increase focus in improving disability inclusion programming in the ANCP. In 2023, the ANCP learning agenda included four webinars on disability inclusion programming. In 2024, DFAT will work with ACFID to ensure capacity building and learning on disability inclusion programming remains a priority for ANCP ANGOs. This aligns with the commitment in Australia’s International Development Policy to support all people to fulfil their potential, including to develop a new strategy for disability and equity rights.

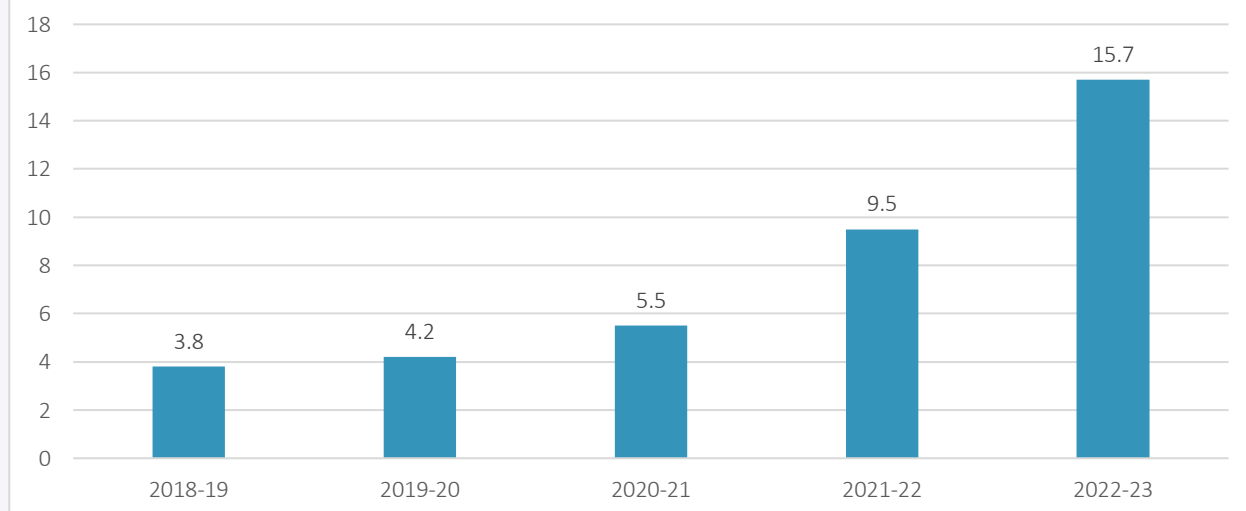
**Table 3: Project-level approach to disability inclusion**

Disability marker	# of projects	% of projects	# of projects	% of projects
	2022-23	2022-23	2021-22	2021-22
<b>Principal</b>	16	4%	20	4%
<b>Significant</b>	276	69%	246	63%
<i>Twin tracked</i>	90	22%	83	21%
<i>Mainstream</i>	186	47%	163	42%
<b>Not Targeted</b>	110	27%	126	33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Climate finance data 2022-23

ANCP NGOs are playing an increasing role in climate change action in the Australian development program. This is in part reflected in the increasing ANCP contribution to climate finance over time (Graph 4)<sup>2</sup>. In 2022-23, 33 ANCP NGOs implemented climate change activities across 130 projects (32 per cent of all projects). This compared to 27 NGOs across 79 projects in 2021-22 (20 per cent of all projects). Forty-four per cent of expenditure supported adaptation activities. Fifteen per cent supported mitigation activities and the remainder supported activities that included both adaptation and mitigation where the split could not be determined. In 2022-23 there was a 55 per cent increase in expenditure specifically on climate mitigation strategies compared to 2021-22. Climate change was most often a secondary objective at the project level (23 per cent of all projects) with common activities supporting sectors including livelihoods and economic development, disaster risk reduction and food security. DFAT looks forward to working with ANCP partners to further strengthen climate change programming under the ANCP, in line with the commitment in Australia's International Development Policy to increase climate investments and better address climate risk.

Graph 4: ANCP Climate Finance AUD millions (estimates)

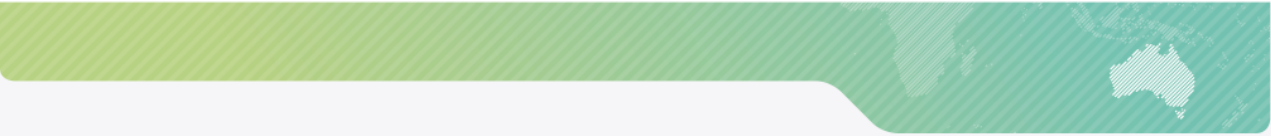


## Accreditation

Fifteen accreditation reviews were undertaken in 2022-23. Ten were completed as part of the five-year re-accreditation cycle, three were applications for upgrades and two were new applications at base level:

- Of the ten applications for re-accreditation, eight full level ANGOs were re-accredited at full and two base level ANGOs were re-accredited at base.
- Of the three applications for upgrades to full level, two were successful, and one was re-accredited at base.

<sup>2</sup> Note: 2021-22 was the first year in which reporting on ANCP climate finance expenditure was mandatory.

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- Of the two new applications, one application was withdrawn, and one application carried over into 2023-24.
  - Seven subject-to progress checks were also successfully completed.

## Implementation of evaluation recommendations

In 2023 DFAT strengthened the ANCP by implementing recommendations from an evaluation completed in late 2022. A shift to a strategic partnership approach will enable deeper engagement with NGOs and better leverage their knowledge and experience.

The evaluation recommended streamlining ANCP business processes and addressing equity across organisations of different scale. A review of the ANCP accreditation system and funding policy commenced in 2023 to identify options for streamlining and enhancing processes and funding arrangements. Recommendations and a management response in response to the ANCP accreditation system and funding policy review will inform changes to be implemented in early 2024.

An ANCP Anticipatory Action pilot was established to address the evaluation recommendation that ANCP better support work in the development and humanitarian nexus. The pilot is funding a set of interventions carried out when a hazard poses imminent danger based on a forecast, early warning, or pre-disaster risk analysis. Six projects implemented by four ANCP NGOs are addressing climate-related hazards. The pilot will increase the resilience of ANCP portfolio, protecting ANCP development outcomes by minimising disruptions to project activities and/or displacement of communities. DFAT will conduct a study at the end of the trial to inform feasibility of a scale up across the program.

The evaluation and management response also outlined some reforms to the ANCP Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system. The evaluation recommendations were implemented in a staged approach and MEL reforms will be shaped by the implementation and bedding down of the current recommendation actions underway. The MEL reforms will be a priority for 2024.